

Application Note

Windows Vista Support using DeTwo PCI Extension Technology

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Overview

Windows Vista is a complete re-design of Windows on many levels not least the graphical user interface. The user interface of Windows Vista known as Aero, features enhanced graphical effects that place a greater strain on the Graphics Processor (GPU) than previous Windows operating systems. To get the best out of Windows Vista, Microsoft recommends a graphics card that supports Direct-X 9 and PixelShader 2.0 which are not supported by standard PCI graphics cards used with the DeTwo PCI extension products.

Implications of PCI Extension

When using Vista over PCI Extension the user interface will be pared back to remove some of the demands of the graphical user interface. Vista does this automatically and no fine tuning is needed. The primary reason for this is that currently there are no PCI graphics cards that support Direct-X 9 and PixelShader 2.0 and the DeTwo extension technology requires that you use a PCI card.

You can still take advantage of the majority of the enhancements in Windows Vista except for features such as Flip3D (a 3d graphical task switching mechanism) without compromising usability. It is however useful to have the best performing graphics cards to help with the new interface. Currently, the best card we have found for running Vista over DeTwo is a Matrox P650 which supports the majority of the features of Vista. The only notable features missing are Flip-3D and user interface transparency which will have a negligible (if any) impact in a business environment.

Next Steps

For full details of the latest drivers available for your configuration under Windows Vista please contact the Amulet Hotkey Software Team.



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